

DEADLINES

- Submission of abstracts: January 15, 2006
- Notification of accepted abstracts: March 15, 2006
- Registration deadline: April 30, 2006
- Submission of full papers: June 30, 2006
- Acceptance of full papers for oral presentation August 15, 2006
- Confirmation and payment of registration fees August 30, 2006

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

An abstract should not be more than 250 words and must include objectives, materials, methods, results and conclusions (see example on website). Please indicate whether you prefer an oral or a poster presentation.

PUBLICATION

Accepted abstracts will be published in the Book of Abstracts. Accepted papers will be reviewed and submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Prof. Mitiku Haile, President, Mekelle University, Ethiopia
- Dr. Mintesinot Behailu, Vice-President, Mekelle University
- Dr. Kindeya Gebrehiwot, Mekelle University
- Drs. Nigussie Haregeweyn, Mekelle University
- Drs. Amanuel Zenebe Abraha, Mekelle University
- Prof. J. Deckers, K.U.Leuven
- Prof. J. Poesen, K.U.Leuven, Belgium
- Prof. G. Govers, K.U.Leuven
- Dr. J. Nyssen, Senior Research Officer, K.U.Leuven
- Dr. J. Moeyersons, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium
- Prof. F. Dramis, Roma Tre University, Italy
- Prof. T. Parsons, University of Leicester, UK

- Prof. G. Gisladdottir, University of Iceland, Iceland
- Prof. H. Hurni, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Dr. C. Valentin, IRD, France
- Prof. Abdallah A. Ahmed, UNESCO, Sudan

VENUE

The symposium will be held in Axum Hotel at Mekelle, Ethiopia. Mekelle is situated about 780 km north of the capital city, Addis Ababa, with which it has daily air links. Mekelle is an ideal operating base for excursions to the fascinating highlands and lowlands.

REQUIREMENTS

Good physical condition as the excursions will take participants to the spectacular and breath-taking rugged Ethiopian landscapes between 3300 metres above sea level on the shoulders of the Great Rift Valley down the escarpment of the Danakil depression.

CONGRESS SECRETARIAT

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Please mention 'HighLand-Deckers'

SECOND CIRCULAR



Environmental change, geomorphic processes, land degradation and rehabilitation in tropical and subtropical highlands



**19-25 September 2006
Mekelle University
Mekelle, Ethiopia**



VLIR

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

See first circular:

<http://www.kuleuven.be/geografie/frg/>

<http://www.biw.kuleuven.be/lbh/>

<http://www.mu.edu.et/>

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Monday September 18, 2006

Arrival in Mekelle and registration
Icebreaker reception

Tuesday September 19, 2006

Opening ceremony and paper/poster session

THEME 1

- Changing environments and geomorphic process intensities in tropical and subtropical mountains since late Pleistocene times; changes in vegetation cover, climate, hydrology, hillslope and fluvial processes, tufa dam development, landsliding

Keynote speaker: Prof. F. Dramis

Travertine dams and the evolution of rivers during the Holocene

THEME 2

- Land degradation in tropical and subtropical mountains: natural and anthropogenic controls; on site and off site consequences (soil erosion, landsliding, degradation of vegetation cover, hydrological processes, reservoir siltation, salinisation, ...)

Keynote speaker: Prof. T. Parsons

Hillslope processes, vegetation change and land degradation in dryland environments

Wednesday September 20, 2006

Excursion to the Highlands (Hagere Selam area)

Topic: Land degradation in tropical mountain areas and scope for rehabilitation (*more information on congress website*)

Thursday September 21, 2006

Excursion to the Adi Gudom area

Topics: Reservoir siltation, Vertisol management, Sustainable livelihood and Panoramic synthesis (*more information on congress website*)

Friday September 22, 2006

Paper/poster session and closing ceremony

THEME 3

- Soil and water conservation in tropical and subtropical mountains; effectiveness and efficiency of traditional and recently introduced techniques and their implementation in rural societies

Keynote speaker: Prof. H. Hurni

The challenges of soil and water conservation for ensuring agricultural productivity, reducing poverty, and furthering environmental sustainability.

Conference dinner

Saturday September 23, 2006

Post-conference excursion to Rift shoulder cloud forests and down the Rift escarpment into the Danakil depression. Visit of Shahigubi (Afar settlement) and Wukro rock church. Number of participants is limited (first come first served basis). Expected cost amounts to ca. 50 EUR all-in.

Monday September 25, 2006

Stakeholders forum

- ✓ Morning: Discussion with stakeholders in one of the research sites
- ✓ Afternoon: Presentation and discussion of extension material (manuals, demonstration sites)

International participants are most welcome to share their knowledge with farmers and development workers.

REGISTRATION FEE

	Before May 1 st , 2006	After May 1 st , 2006
Regular registration	150	200
Retired person	100	150
Ph.D. student	50	100
Accompanying persons	100	150

Ph.D. students are requested to submit a university certificate of their registration as a student.

Regular, retired and student registration include:

- Welcome party
- Participation in the sessions
- Book of abstracts
- Conference excursions

Grant application:

The Organizing Committee has a limited number of congress grants allowing African scientists to attend this conference. For more information, please contact the congress secretariat.

LANGUAGE

English will be the official language. No simultaneous translation service will be available.

Total number of participants will be limited to 50 on a first come first served basis.